

Appl. No.: 10/564,286
Amdt. dated April 13, 2010
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2010

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2010. In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 14-16, 25-27, and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,549,650 to Ishikawa et al. (“*Ishikawa*”). Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, 14-19, 21, 25-30, 32, and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of U.S. Patent 7,307,654 to Chang (“*Chang*”). Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of U.S. Patent 6,445,293 to Alonso et al. (“*Alonso*”). Claims 11, 13, 22, 24, 33, and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* and *Chang*, and in further view of U.S. Published Patent Application 2003/0071906 to Matsumoto (“*Matsumoto*”). Finally, Claims 12, 23, and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*, *Chang*, and *Matsumoto*, and in further view of *Alonso*. For the Examiner’s reference, Claims 9, 20, and 31 were previously canceled, Claims 3, 16, and 27 have been canceled, Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 28, 32, 33, and 36 have been amended, and Claims 37-46 have been added as new. Thus, as a result of this Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-15, 17-19, 21-26, 28-30, and 32-46 are currently pending in the application for the Examiner’s consideration.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Independent Claim 1

Independent Claim 1 has been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*. Although Applicants do not agree with the current rejection of Claim 1, in order to expedite prosecution of the current application, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to further clarify the claimed invention over the cited art. For example, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite the steps of identifying corresponding lines in overlapping parts of the images from the respective cameras and calculating a projective transform for the pixels of the images from at least one of the cameras based on a relation between the corresponding lines. Thus, the method recited in Claim

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1 involves the step of calculating a transform based on the relation between corresponding lines in the overlapping parts of the respective images as opposed to corresponding points in overlapping parts of the respective images. Support for these steps may be found on page 10, lines 12-13 and page 9, lines 19-29 of the as-filed application. Applicants respectfully submit that the portions of *Ishikawa* cited in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest at least these steps recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection of Claim 1 under § 102(b).

Dependent Claims 2 and 5

Dependent Claims 2 and 5 have been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*. Claims 2 and 5 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore include all of the elements of Claim 1 plus additional elements that further define the invention over the prior art. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above in regard to independent Claim 1 and in light of the additional elements that further define the invention, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejections of these claims under § 102(b).

Independent Claim 14

Independent Claim 14 has been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*. Applicants have amended Claim 14 to recite a processor configured to identify corresponding lines in overlapping parts of the images from the respective cameras and calculate a projective transform for pixels of the images from at least one of said cameras based on a relation between said corresponding lines. As discussed above in support of Claim 1, the portions of *Ishikawa* cited in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest at least these elements. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 14 is patentable over *Ishikawa* and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection of this claim under § 102(b).

Independent Claim 25

Independent Claim 25 has been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*. Applicants have amended Claim 25 to recite computer-readable program code portions comprising

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executable portions that cause a device to identify corresponding lines in overlapping parts of the images from the respective cameras and calculate a projective transform for pixels of the images from at least one of the cameras based on a relation between the corresponding lines. As discussed above in support of Claim 1, the portions of *Ishikawa* cited in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest at least these elements. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 25 is patentable over *Ishikawa* and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection of this claim under § 102(b).

Independent Claim 36

Independent Claim 36 has been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*. Applicants have amended Claim 36 to recite a memory storage area storing a program for identifying corresponding lines in overlapping parts of the images from the respective cameras and calculating a projective transform for pixels of the images from at least one of the cameras based on a relation between corresponding lines. As discussed above in support of Claim 1, the portions of *Ishikawa* cited in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest at least these elements. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 36 is patentable over *Ishikawa* and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection of this claim under § 102(b).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Independent Claim 1

Independent Claim 1 has also been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of *Chang*. However, Applicants respectfully submit that *Ishikawa* and *Chang* fail to teach or suggest each and every step of newly amended Claim 1. For instance, as previously mentioned amended Claim 1 recites the steps of identifying corresponding lines in overlapping parts of the images from the respective cameras and calculating a projective transform for the pixels of the images from at least one of the cameras based on a relation between the corresponding lines. Applicants respectfully submit that the portions of *Ishikawa* and *Chang* cited in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest at least these steps recited in amended Claim 1. Accordingly,

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Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection of Claim 1 under § 103(a).

Dependent Claims 2, 4-8, and 10-13

Claims 2, 5-8, and 10 have been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of *Chang*. Claim 4 has been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of *Alonso*. Claims 11 and 13 have been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* and *Chang*, and further in view of *Matsumoto*. Claim 12 has been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*, *Chang*, and *Matsumoto*, and further in view of *Alonso*. Claims 2, 4-8, and 10-13 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore include all of the elements of Claim 1 plus additional elements that further define the invention over the prior art. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above in regard to independent Claim 1 and in light of the additional elements that further define the invention, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejections of these claims under § 103(a).

Independent Claim 14

Independent Claim 14 has also been rejected as being obvious in light of *Ishikawa* in view of *Chang*. As previously mentioned Applicants have amended Claim 14 to recite a processor configured to identify corresponding lines in overlapping parts of the images from the respective cameras and calculate a projective transform for pixels of the images from at least one of said cameras based on a relation between said corresponding lines. As discussed above in support of Claim 1, the portions of *Ishikawa* and *Chang* cited in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest at least these elements. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 14 is patentable over *Ishikawa* and *Chang* and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection of this claim under § 103(a).

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Dependent Claims 15, 17-19, and 21-24

Claims 15, 17-19, and 21 have been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of *Chang*. Claims 22 and 24 have been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* and *Chang*, and further in view of *Matsumoto*. Claim 23 has been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*, *Chang*, and *Matsumoto*, and further in view of *Alonso*. Claims 15, 17-19, and 21-24 depend from independent Claim 14 and therefore include all of the elements of Claim 14 plus additional elements that further define the invention over the prior art. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above in regard to independent Claim 14 and in light of the additional elements that further define the invention, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejections of these claims under § 103(a).

Independent Claim 25

Independent Claim 25 has also been rejected as being obvious in light of *Ishikawa* in view of *Chang*. As previously mentioned Applicants have amended Claim 25 to recite computer-readable program code portions comprising executable portions that cause a device to identify corresponding lines in overlapping parts of the images from the respective cameras and calculate a projective transform for pixels of the images from at least one of the cameras based on a relation between the corresponding lines. As discussed above in support of Claim 1, the portions of *Ishikawa* and *Chang* cited in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest at least these elements. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 25 is patentable over *Ishikawa* and *Chang* and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection of this claim under § 103(a).

Dependent Claims 26, 28-30, and 32-35

Claims 26, 28-30, and 32 have been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* in view of *Chang*. Claims 33 and 35 have been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa* and *Chang*, and further in view of *Matsumoto*. Claim 34 has been rejected as being unpatentable over *Ishikawa*, *Chang*, and *Matsumoto*, and further in view of *Alonso*. Claims 26, 28-30, and 32-35 depend from independent Claim 25 and therefore include all of the elements of Claim 25 plus

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additional elements that further define the invention over the prior art. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above in regard to independent Claim 25 and in light of the additional elements that further define the invention, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejections of these claims under § 103(a).

Independent Claim 36

Independent Claim 36 has also been rejected as being obvious in light of *Ishikawa* in view of *Chang*. As previously mentioned Applicants have amended Claim 36 to recite a memory storage area storing a program for indentifying corresponding lines in overlapping parts of the images from the respective cameras and calculating a projective transform for pixels of the images from at least one of the cameras based on a relation between corresponding lines. As discussed above in support of Claim 1, the portions of *Ishikawa* and *Chang* cited in the Office Action fail to disclose or suggest at least these elements. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 36 is patentable over *Ishikawa* and *Chang* and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the current rejection of this claim under § 103(a).

New Claims 37-46

New Claims 37-40 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore include all of the steps of independent Claim 1 plus additional steps that further define the invention over the prior art. New Claims 41-42 depend from independent Claim 14 and therefore include all of the elements of independent Claim 14 plus additional elements that further define the invention over the prior art. New Claims 43-44 depend from independent Claim 25 and therefore include all of the elements of independent Claim 25 plus additional elements that further define the invention over the prior art. New Claims 45-46 depend from independent Claim 36 and therefore include all of the elements of independent Claim 36 plus additional elements that further define the invention over the prior art. Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above in regard to independent Claims 1, 14, 25, and 36, and in light of the additional elements that further define the invention, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

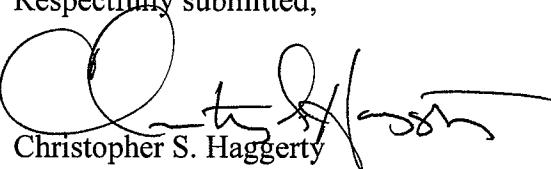
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Conclusion

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2010. The foregoing amendments and remarks are believed to have placed the present application in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at (404) 881-7640 or e-mail at chris.haggerty@alston.com to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

The patentability of the independent claims has been argued as set forth above and thus Applicants will not take this opportunity to argue the merits of the rejection with regard to each dependent claim. However, Applicants do not concede that the dependent claims are not independently patentable and reserve the right to argue the patentability of the dependent claims at a later date if necessary.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

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ELECTRONICALLY FILED USING THE EFS-WEB ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE ON April 13, 2010.